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## **GLORIA MOLINA JOINS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS TO PROCLAIM ‘EL DÍA DEL NIÑO – THE DAY OF THE CHILD’**

**Saturday Kick-Off at LA Plaza; Week-Long Festivities at Libraries & Parks**

LOS ANGELES (April 24, 2012)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina joined fellow Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today to proclaim April 28, 2012 “El Día del Niño – The Day of the Child.” Joining them were the Honorable David Figueroa, Consul General of Mexico; Gustavo Herrera, Chief Operating Officer for LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes; Sofia Gavia, Regional Park Superintendent for Roosevelt Park; and Gabby Torres, Children’s Librarian for City Terrace Library.

“Since the 1920s, El Día del Niño has been observed globally to remind society that children must be treasured and revered,” Molina said. “Throughout the world, children are celebrated through storytelling, reading, writing and events at local libraries, schools and neighborhoods. In the United States, we already celebrate Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Hopefully, Los Angeles County can join the global community with a new tradition – a day for honoring children, where we share activities with them and recognize their special talents.”

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To help spread the word about “El Día del Niño – The Day of the Child,” Los Angeles County secured the permission of artist Glenna Avila to use her 1984 Olympic Festival Mural, “L.A. Freeway Kids” (featured below) for publicity purposes. For decades, the mural adorned the south side of the Hollywood Freeway (I-101) as it traversed downtown Los Angeles between Main and Los Angeles Streets. In it, larger than life children representing a cross-section of the city’s ethnic pageantry play together joyfully.

An official “El Día del Niño – The Day of the Child” countywide commemoration – coinciding with LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes’ one-year birthday – will take place at the museum this Saturday, April 28 from Noon to 4 p.m. The event is free of charge and open to the public.

“El Día del Niño – The Day of the Child” also will be celebrated with multicultural literacy and arts programming at 31 county public libraries and 13 county parks from April 17<sup>th</sup> through May 19<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on various “El Día del Niño – The Day of the Child” festivities, visit <http://molina.lacounty.gov/diadelnino.html>.

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